



Economic Commission for Africa

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AfDB's \$125.6m for Mombasa-Addis to boost trade

Completion of the phase 11 of the construction of the Mombasa-Nairobi-Addis Ababa road is expected to boost trade between Kenya and Ethiopia as it will reduce transport and shipping costs. The African Development Bank (AfDB) has given a loan of \$125.6 million to the government of Ethiopia to finance the construction of the Mombasa-Nairobi-Addis Ababa Road corridor project phase II.

The loan for an amount of \$125.6 million was signed by Mr. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, representing the government of Ethiopia and Mr. Lamin G. Barrow, the bank's resident representative in the Ethiopia Country Office. The road is

Nigeria to save \$500m with new strategy on rice

Nigeria is expected to save about \$500 million annually when the Federal Government implements a major strategy that has been designed to triple domestic rice production. The strategy is also expected to improve indigenous processing capacity as well as enhance the marketability of rice grown and processed.

also expected to boost trade between the countries since it will also reduce transit time for imports and exports and increase the volume of Ethiopian goods transiting through Mombasa port in Kenya. The bank's resident representative underscored the significance of this New Partnership for Africa Development (NEPAD) flagship project as it will support the Ethiopian government's efforts to diversify access to seaports and help redress the apparent marginalization of the horn of Africa countries from the recent boom witnessed in intra-Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade.

For full story: <http://www.busiweek.com/10/page.php?aid=107>

The strategy, called the National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS), will be launched on Monday in Minna, Niger State, where Governor Babangida Aliyu will present it to the public.

NRDS is to be launched in Niger State
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Zuma calls for more investment in Africa

South African President, Jacob Zuma, has called on African countries to invest at home, within the African Union (AU).

Addressing the Ugandan parliament

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Nigeria to save \$500m with new strategy on rice

because it is the highest rice producing state in the country. NRDS outlines the plan for transforming the production, processing and packaging of rice, which is a food item of choice for most households in rural and urban Nigeria.

When faithfully executed, the strategy, which aims to increase rice production in Nigeria from 3.4 million tonnes to 12.85 million tonnes within a decade, an increase of nearly 300 per cent, should save the country the more than \$500 million expended on rice importation annually, as well as impact positively on food security, job creation, balance of trade, poverty reduction and national productivity.

<http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=169510>

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Zuma calls for more investment in Africa

Zuma said that the different countries of Africa have invested very little in the African Union, adding that South Africa was trying to lead the way in that direction by committing more resources to NEPAD.

“It is investing time and energy in the Pan African Parliament that shall yield results,” Zuma said. Accompanied by President Yoweri Museveni, Zuma said that South Africa is committed to investing more in the development of the Ugandan human resource now that over 50 South African firms are doing business in Uganda.

Source: <http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php/component/content/article/106-myblog/2666-zuma-calls-for-more-investment-in-africa>

Concerns of bioterror in Africa raised

Concerns have been raised about potential abuses by scientists of the emerging biotechnology industry in Africa, which is being used to increase agricultural production.

“These weapons could deprive crops of water or nutrients resulting in poor yields and eventually down play efforts aimed at marketing the products globally,” John Opuda-Asibo, the first deputy vice chancellor of Kyambogo University in Uganda, told The East African.

“We are not getting any extra land yet we need to increase food production by up to 300 percent by 2050,” Diran Makinde, the director of Nepad Planning and Coordination Agency, told The East African. “We can only do this through the use of biotechnology.”

“We need to combat the use of biotechnology as a weapon. That calls for bioterrorism preparedness,” Prof. Opuda-Asibo said. Only 12 African countries currently have national biosafety laws. Several African countries maintain biosafety policies and 30 do not have any sort of safety practices at all.

Scientists have called on the African Union for a set of biosafety laws for the East African Community, which currently has only a biosafety group.

Source: <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/news/212535-concerns-of-bioterror-in-africa-raised>

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